

Sending out an SOS

Students' voices heard through outdoor art show

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Through the various artistic pieces on display as part of the student Outdoor Sculptures display at the Duxbury Art Complex Museum, teenagers on the South Shore are expressing their views about the world they live in.

Some of the messages are political, like "Don't Let History Repeat Itself," a piece about the Holocaust and the genocide in Darfur.

Some pieces are environmental. "Make Way for the Future" represents the effect deforestation has on the planet and the wildlife that inhabit the forests, and "Windmill" is a natural sculpture depicting the need to move toward alternative energy sources and cleaner air.

And some of the pieces are just expressions of life, the hectic lives that middle school children are already leading as depicted in "Driven by Time," or the need to see beyond the horror in life and live in peace seen through the piece "Rise Above the Garbage and Live in Peace," or how music is such a powerful influence in the world as portrayed in "Music Atlas."

"The project was a way to represent the different issues in society today. It is one of the simplest ways to get things out in the open," said Jamie Morris, a senior at Duxbury High School.

This year, the SOS had a lot of firsts. It was the first time for many new art teachers in several schools, the first time in four years Duxbury High School has participated in the project, the first time the outside was not filled with projects due to lack of funding in art departments and the first time the show was judged and prizes were awarded.

"This was always a debatable issue. We never wanted to do awards because everyone should be commended for what they do, and it is nice to not have competition," said Sally Dean-Mello, education coordinator at the museum. "We thought we would try and make it a little more interesting for everyone. But everyone will get a certificate; this just makes it a little more exciting when people have a chance to win. It is a double-edged sword. We did not want anyone to be disappointed, but on the other hand, it may inspire some to continue to do it."

Four sculptures received Awards of Excellence, earning \$25 for their art departments: "Chandelier," produced by students in Katie Pearce's art class at Scituate High School; "Music Atlas," produced by students in Cheryl Thompson's art class at Rockland High School; "Don't Let History Repeat Itself," by middle school students in Pam Golden's art class at Inly School in Scituate; and "Ceramic Surrealist Birds," by students in Sherie Harkins art class at Plymouth North High School.

Davis and Talita Lopes from Rockland High School received the Award for Humor, also \$25, for their project "Twist of Revenge." The \$100 award for Best in Show went to "Windmill," a class project designed in one of Julie Papageorge's 3D art classes at Duxbury High School.

"It was amazing how everyone came together and how everyone found one thing they could do to be a part of the project," Papageorge said. "It was a surprise to see a large group of kids pull something together that is so cohesive in such a short amount of time."

Papageorge, a new art teacher at the school, learned about the project shortly before the deadline. She said the class quickly brainstormed ideas and began working on the construction. Freshman Joey Coyne came up with the idea to build a windmill, which he said is because he wanted to design something that could move.

"When Joey first came up with the idea, we thought it would be good to show how even kids our age can still have a say in the world and help the environment," sophomore Lexa Schupp said.

The windmill was made out of recycled materials, gathered sticks, branches and wood, and hemp rope was used to tie it together, junior Casey Ducinski said. The class wanted to use materials that were biodegradable and already on the ground, she added.

The idea to use recycled materials is a staple of SOS projects. In Scituate, Pearce was able to gather beads from a recycling center for teachers in Boston. After she brought the materials back to class, the students began formulating the project around the beads. The project, which was originally a student project by senior Anna Fortuna, turned into a class collaborative project. Pearce, also a first-year art teacher, was really excited the entire class participated in building the project and hopes next year more students will take part in the exhibit.

"This gives the students the opportunity to show their work outside of school. It makes it more realistic to show your piece and have it withstand the conditions," Pearce said. "It adds another element to be more realistic and participate in the art world."

The Inly students are the only middle school students involved in the show. They had the most projects in the show, with five out of 12. Although they are only in middle school, all of their projects dealt with larger issues, with three expressing their views on living fast-paced lives.

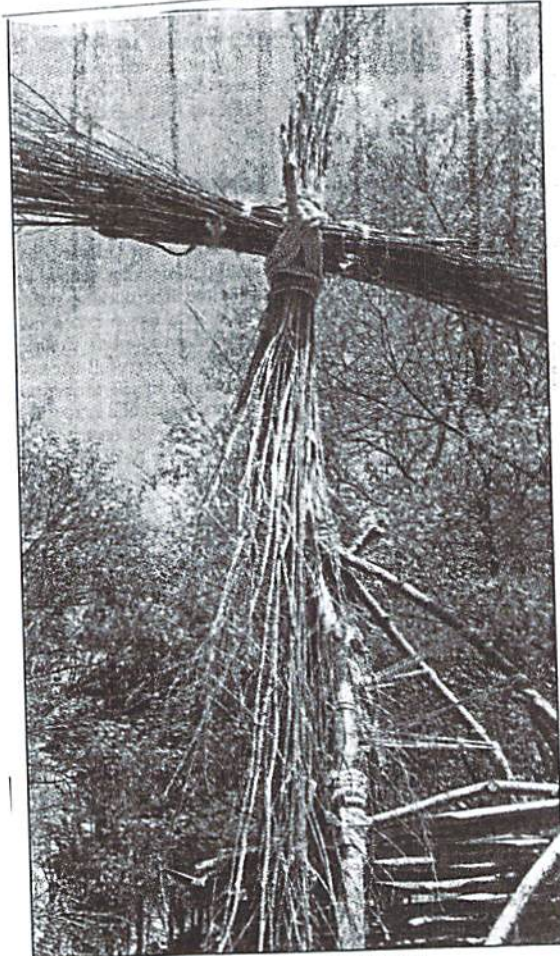
"All the different directions people are pulled in, they don't have time to do what makes us feel good," 14-year-old Zach Rubenstein said.

Dean-Mello said the SOS exhibit is one of her favorite things to work on all year. She loves opening up the boxes to find a dozen little ceramic birds, and finding a place to display all the artwork for people to see.

"The kids work really hard, it is nice to get the work out for people to see, and the museum is a beautiful place to have it displayed," Golden said.

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ART COMPLEX MUSEUM



Duxbury High School's "Windmill" was Best in Show.

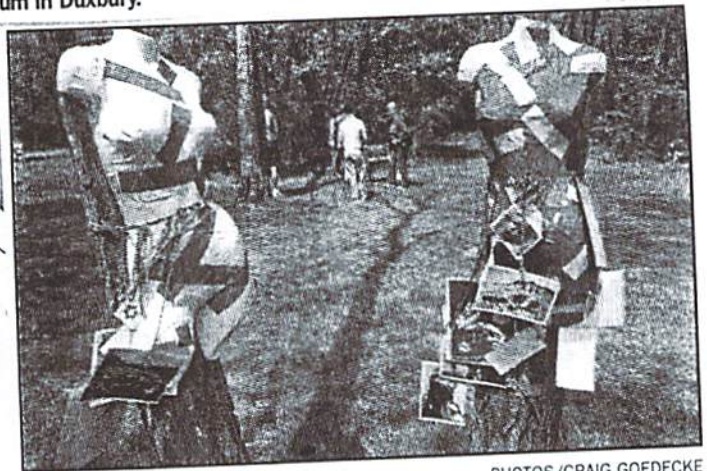


PHOTOS/CRAIG GOEDECKE

Davis and Talita Lopes of Rockland High School created "Twist of Revenge," a large bug holding a magnifying glass over a human figure against a log for the Student Outdoor Sculptures display at the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury.



Rockland High School's Max Brownell and Crystallyn Davenport talk about the oversized Nikon D80 digital camera they created.



PHOTOS/CRAIG GOEDECKE

"Don't Let History Repeat Itself" a sculpture by students at Inly School in Scituate about the Holocaust and the genocide in Darfur.